

# Remembering a King for all mankind

By Ms. Adriene M. Dicks  
*Correspondent*

This year marks the 18th year Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day has been recognized as a legal holiday. However, it took nearly as long for legislation to be passed and signed into law.

The quest toward what is now an internationally recognized holiday began only days after Dr. King's assassination. The first legislation proposing Dr. King's birthday be made a holiday was submitted by Rep. John Conyers of Michigan on April 8, 1968, four days after the civil-rights leader's death. Legislation making the day a holiday was not signed until Nov. 2, 1983, and the first King Holiday was observed Jan. 20, 1986.

During the 15 years it took to formalize the King Holiday, many states and organizations took their own steps to ensure the life and works of Dr. King were recognized.

On Jan. 15, 1969, more than 1,100 plant workers in North Tarrytown, N.Y., stayed home in observance of Dr. King's birthday; many were suspended and had to deal with other administrative action. In 1970, California was the first state to

pass legislation making his birthday a holiday. Illinois was the first state to make the day a state holiday in 1973.

Each year, Shaw's Black Heritage Committee sponsors a luncheon in honor of Dr. King. The speaker for this year's luncheon, held Thursday at the Conference Center, was Rev. Gregory Cunningham, a former Air Force chaplain. According to Rev. Cunningham, Dr. King made some of the most significant contributions toward social awareness and the mobilization of freedom and justice for all people.

"People shouldn't be so wrapped up in color in regards to Dr. King," said Rev. Cunningham. "He was one of the most critical thinkers of this century and, when you study his works, you find he was most concerned with equality for all mankind, not just blacks. He was for the American dream."

For young people today who haven't learned much about Dr. King, Rev. Cunningham feels it's most important for them to know he was a man of deep spiritual integrity, believed mediocrity was

unacceptable, and felt all people should live together.

Lt. Col. John Ducharme, 20th Comptroller Squadron commander, believes it is important to continue to recognize Dr. King's work because young people should know he was a great man who stood for what he believed in peacefully, but didn't take no for an answer.

"Freedom should be free for all," said Lt. Col. Ducharme. "Dr. King pushed those values, and we should recognize the work he did to ensure all people are treated equally."

Dr. King was working toward equality for all people, but the work he did and the achievements he made during that quest stand out to people for different reasons. If asked, some people might say he was a person who acted nonviolently while others remember him as a Nobel Peace Prize winner. Some remember him as a Baptist minister and others recall he graduated from college at the age of 19. In a sermon delivered two months before his assassination, Dr. King said he wanted people to say he was a drum major for justice.



# Shaw's Eagle Eyes are vigilant

## *Anti-terrorism program puts all citizens on watch*

By Staff Sgt. Alicia Prakash  
Staff writer

Crime watch signs are posted in some neighborhoods, displaying an eye for passers-by to see. Here at Shaw, a sign is now posted, but personnel are encouraged to keep a watchful eye for suspicious activities or persons.

Shaw's Eagle Eyes program began in 2003. It is intended to serve as a preventive measure against terrorism activity, said Special Agent Brian McElhenny, Office of Special Investigations, Detachment 212 counterintelligence agent.

"We want to catch terrorists in the planning stages," he said.

Since the onset of the Eagle Eyes program here, Agent McElhenny said there has been a great response from military, family members and the community.

Agent McElhenny said the most common report from the Shaw community is concerning suspicious car occupants videotaping or taking pictures of the base.

"It is not illegal to take pictures of authorized areas," said Master Sgt. James Tomlin, 20th Security

Forces Squadron operations support NCO in charge.

However, certain areas on base should not be photographed without clearance or permission from the wing commander or another designated person, said Sgt. Tomlin.

When a suspicious person or activity is noticed, call it in immediately. Agent McElhenny said to give a many details as possible.

"License tag numbers, car make and model and a description of the driver are helpful," he said.

Agents here investigate the situations and report activity to Air Force Headquarters and to agencies in the local area.

One means of getting information out to other agencies is through the Joint Terrorist Task Force for South Carolina. Once a month, the Federal Bureau of Investigations in Columbia hosts this organization, composed of various government agencies. They share information and pitch in to help ward off terrorism.

"Continue to report suspicious activities and we will do our best to keep our community safe," said Agent McElhenny.

To report suspicious persons or activity, call **895-3669**.

## Look out for ...

- Individuals attempting to gain information about military operations.

- Persons recording or monitoring base activities.

- People attempting to penetrate security barriers or measuring reaction times to security breaches.

- Individuals purchasing or stealing weapons, decals or badges.

- People who do not seem to belong in the workplace or a building.

- People and supplies getting into position to commit an act of terrorism.

*(Information courtesy of Headquarters Air Force Office of Special Investigations.)*

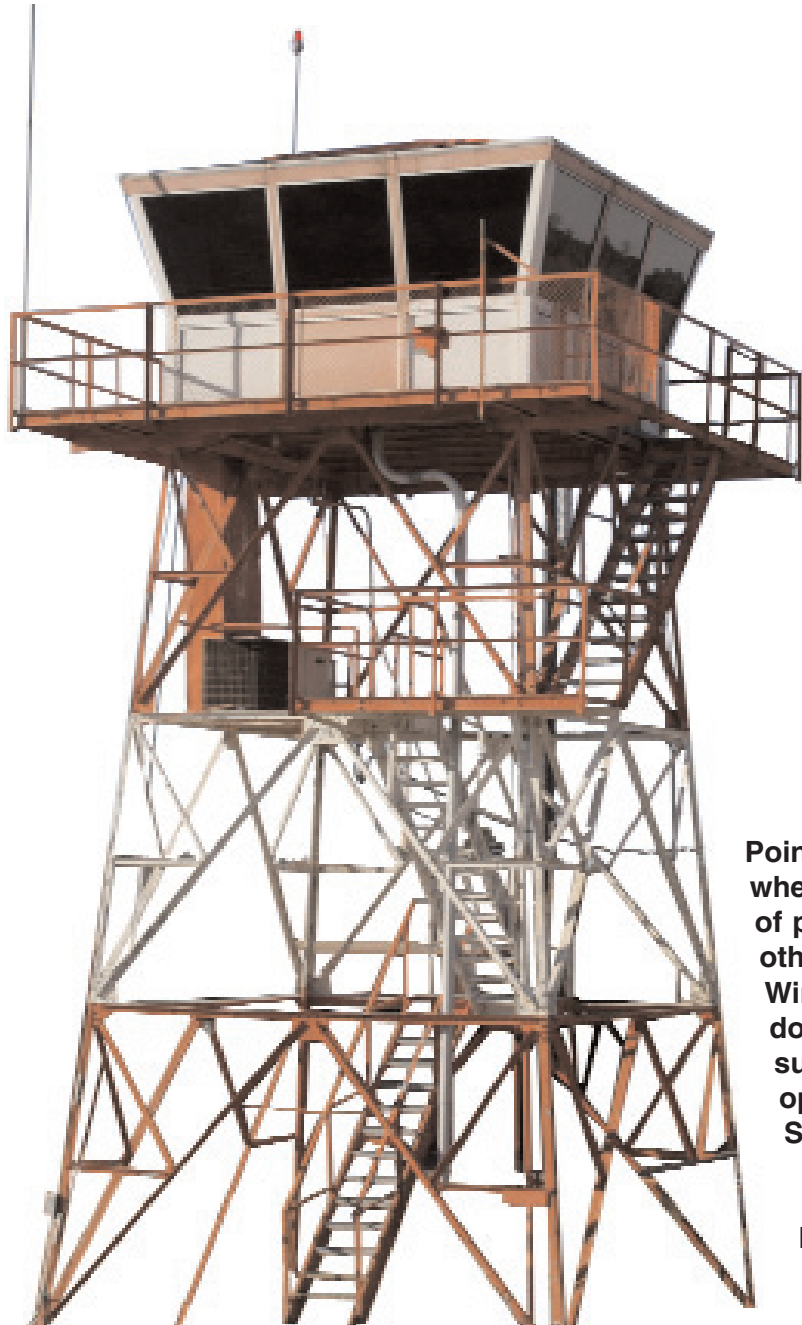


*Photo by Staff Sgt. Lee Watts*

## More power

**Airman 1st Class Jonathan Alicea, 20th Component Maintenance Squadron, works on a TF-34 engine here Thursday.**





*Photo by Staff Sgt. Alicia Prakash*

Hugh Hatfield, 20th Operations Support Squadron range coordinator, watches targets and records accuracy of the pilots' aims. He has been working on the range since 1989.

Poinsett Electronic Combat Range, a bombing range only minutes from Shaw, is where A-10s from Pope Air Force Base, N.C., and F-16s from Shaw honed their skills of placing bombs on target Jan. 12. Though closest to Shaw, the range is used by other Air Force units and branches of the military. Col. Sam Angelella, 20th Fighter Wing commander said, "In one way or another, everybody's job revolves around doing one thing -- putting bombs on target. Shaw has some of the best pilots and support personnel in the Air Force, and whether it's target practice, real-world operations or preparing for an upcoming inspection, hitting the mark is something Shaw does extremely well."

Personnel in the control tower (left) let the pilots know exactly where they are hitting so they can adjust their aim if needed. Pilots train by hitting mock tanks, trucks and other targets as pictured below.



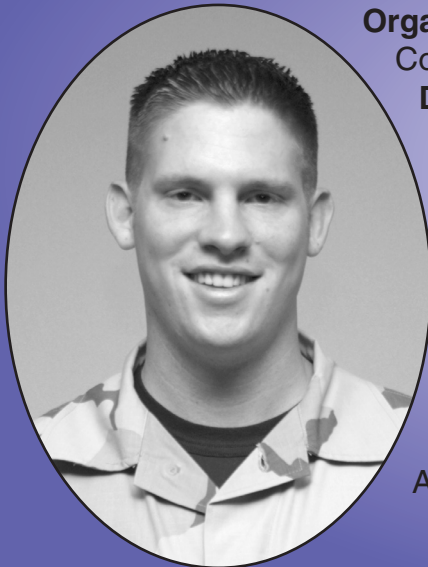
*Photo by Ms. Adriene M. Dicks*



## *Spirit Spotlight*



### ***Airman 1st Class Tyler Kirkland***



**Organization:** 609th Air Communications Squadron

**Duty title:** Ground radio maintenance apprentice

**Job duties:** Maintaining radio communications for the Air Operations Center

**Hometown:** Sarasota, Fla.

**Time in service:** One year

**Off-duty interests:** Working on cars and playing golf

**Other assignments:** Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.

**Words I live by:** "Good things come to people who wait."

### ***Staff Sgt. Christian Werley***



**Organization:** 20th Medical Support Squadron

**Duty title:** NCO in charge of Resource Management

**Job duties:** Managing manpower and financial resources

**Hometown:** Sumter, S.C.

**Time in service:** 12 years

**Family:** Wife, Andrea

**Off-duty interests:** Playing golf and softball and spending time with family

**Other assignments:** Royal Air Force Upper Heyford, England; Lackland Air Force Base, Texas

**Words I live by:** "Your habits in life determine your future."



## Community Center classes

Have some free time? Want to learn something new? The Community Center offers a variety of classes, including voice lessons, guitar lessons, salsa and other dance lessons, Tae Kwon Do and more. To find out the dates and times of these or other classes offered, call **895-3382**.

